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TO-DAY'S AMUSEMENTS.

MICHIGAN'S THEATRE—Madison street, between Dearborn and State. Engagement of the Brooklyn Opera-Troupe. Afternoon. "Faust."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Halsted street, between Madison and Monroe. Engagement of John Dillon, "Everybody," "The Moorish Girl," "The Bazaar," and "The Queen of Sheba."

HOLLEY'S THEATRE—Randolph street, between Clark and LaSalle. "Fashion" and "A Magician Fit."

GLOBE THEATRE—Desplaines street, between Madison and Washington. "The Merchant of Venice." Afternoon and evening.

MYERS' OPERA-HOUSE—Monroe street, between Dearborn and State. Engagement of the Sillins, Minister and comedian. Afternoon and evening.

CENTRAL HALL—Corner Wabash avenue and Twenty-second street. Frank MacEvoy's "New Elberonians." Afternoon and evening.

The Chicago Tribune.

Saturday Morning, January 17, 1874.

The nomination of Capt. Hickey was considered yesterday by the Council Committee on Police, but no result was reached, as the Committee stood 2 to 2 on the question of confirmation.

A deputy of the Iowa State Grange has just returned from a visit to the destitute farmers of Lyon, Oceola, and O'Brien Counties. He has found 1,000 families in need of succor, and thinks that 500 of them must depend on charity for support till spring.

The National Board of Trade thinks it not worth while for Congress to spend any money in building through railroads for the purpose of solving the transportation problem, and regards as equally hopeless any attempt to settle it by favoring fares and rates by law. They favor the passage of laws by State Legislatures to compel railroads transporting grain in bulk to deliver the same quantity they received.

Since 1869, the fractional currency of the United States has been increased by more than \$21,000,000. The National Board of Trade yesterday called on Congress to withdraw \$10,000,000 of this increase. They also recommended that measures be taken to reintroduce silver into the currency, and that the Comptroller of the Currency be deprived of all discretionary power over the currency.

The Boston Journal has made out a detailed statement of the losses by fire last year in this country, the larger by actual record and the smaller by estimate, and finds the amount to be \$85,000,000. Of fires that destroyed less than \$100,000 and over \$50,000 worth of property, there were 162; the property consumed being \$93,389,000. Of fires destroying less than \$50,000 and over \$25,000, there were 306; the losses being \$56,500. Such a record as this for a year not marked by such extraordinary disasters as occurred in the two preceding years furnishes a lesson which ought to be read with profit.

The report of the interview with Mr. Deere, of Moline, published in this issue, shows that the power-makers of this State have no intention of abandoning the practice of selling their plows through agents. They believe that this system, which has grown up of itself, establishes the natural and most advantageous relations in every way between the manufacturers and the farmers. There have been evils connected with it, like that of too great credit, which will correct themselves. The manufacturers are willing to sell large lots to farmers through their local agents at reduced rates, but cannot give up the wide-reaching system of agents, through which alone their extended business could have been built up. Mr. Deere's views are clearly and thoughtfully expressed, and are worth attention as a fair presentation of the views of his class with regard to midwives.

Caleb Cushing has not much reason to congratulate himself on his career as a letter-writer. His letter to Gov. Andrew, of Massachusetts, in 1861 has just been made public. He offers his services "in any capacity, however humble," and says only "to be permitted to lay down his life" to avert the overthrow of the Government. It was in reply to this that Gov. Andrew wrote the letter published the other day, saying that Mr. Cushing's opinions and conduct forbade him to find him any place in the council or camp. He declared himself compelled to avow that he had to accept the offer he "about disdained" numerous good and loyal men, and tend to demoralize our military service." Mr. Cushing's letter to Rose, written at about the same time, lost him the Chief-Judgeship; but most people would consider this other letter, which fastened so firmly a reply on him, as the more unfortunate of the two.

Some attention has been given lately to the subject of State printing. The following extract from the last report of the State Board of Agriculture is a valuable addition to the literature of the subject: "But till we can in some way get rid of those old judges of law, legislators and their advocates, who are so thoroughly wedded with the antiquated laws and quibbles of the law-books that there is no room for common sense in their heads, or common justice in their hearts, I, for one, can see no relief in our case, for the infamy of our present laws has both been thoroughly exposed to us, and though apparently for years past." This language, which is certainly unusual for a public document, appears in a bulky volume of 408 pages issued by the Board of Agriculture. There is nothing else so startling in the volume. The rest of it is filled with desultory reports of fairs, fair correspondences, prize essays, and other equally valuable matter. Not unluckily, the House wants to know who pays for such stuff, and has dismissed the Printing Committee to find out.

Chicago produces markets were again weak yesterday, under a general anxiety to sell. Meats were active and 14¢@20 per lb. lower, closing at \$14.10@14.20 each, and \$14.20@14.25 each February. Lard was moderately active and declined 10¢@10 per 100 lbs, closing at \$9.75@9.40 each, and \$9.40@9.25 each February. Bacon was quiet and steady, at \$14.20@14.25 for

shoulders, 7½¢ for short ribs, 7½¢ for short cuts, and 9½@10¢ for sweet pickled hams.

Dressed hogs were active and firmer, closing at \$8.20@8.30 per 100 lbs. Highwines were dull and nominally easier, at 9½@10¢ per gallon. Flour was quiet and weak.

Meal was active and weak, at 8¢@8.25 each February. Corn was active and weak, at 10¢ decline, closing at 9½¢@9.50 cash, and 9½¢@9.50 seller February.

Oats were moderately active and weaker, closing at 10¢@10 cash, and 10½¢@10.50 seller February. Barley was quiet and easier, at 7¢@7.25 regular No. 2. Barley was dull and lower, at 9½@10.25 for regular No. 2. The hog trade was dull at 10¢ decline, closing at 9.75@10.25 for common to extra. Cattle were active and firmer. Sheep were scarce and 50¢ higher.

Senator Sherman has followed Senator Schurz and Morton with a speech on the currency question. He thinks our paper dollars ought to have been made as good as gold dollars before this. One-tenth of the money that has been used in paying an indebtedness that is not due has been employed in redeeming greenbacks, we could have achieved specie payments. One of the greatest of our financial mistakes has been the payment of \$400,000 of a debt not due, while not a dollar of the legal-tender debt that is overdue and discounted has been met. Another mistake has been the inflation of the currency, to which \$50,000,000 have been added in various shapes since June 30, 1869. The country has already more currency per capita than any other in the world, and, to add to its volume, can have no other effect than to intensify the evils of our present situation. To the cry for "more money" he answers that what we want is "more good money"; that is, money as good as gold. Senator Sherman considers himself to be "not much of a National Bank man."

He would like to see one system of circulation in the country, and that issued by the Government and convertible into gold. The greatest financial mistake, according to his view, which Congress has committed is in the passage of the act of 1873. How has he executed this law? He has certified to the County Clerks an aggregate rate of 3.6-10 mills on the total tax bill, therefore \$1,341,613.945.

This rate of tax will produce the sum of \$4,329,936, or \$1,329,306.95 in excess of that authorized by law.

The specific rates certified by him to the County Clerks are as follows:

Two and seven-tenths mills for school fund.....\$3,628,356.30

Nine-tenths of a mill for school fund.....1,341,613.945

Total.....\$4,329,936.95

Amount authorized by law.....\$3,628,356.30

Excess of levy by Auditor.....\$1,329,306.95

The rate of tax for revenue production.....\$3,628,356.30

Amount authorized by law.....\$3,628,356.30

Excess of levy by Auditor.....\$1,329,306.95

Allowing 10 percent to cover the cost of collecting the tax levied for revenue purposes, the difference between the assessed value of taxable property in 1873 to produce these two amounts of revenue.

He is not authorized to compute any rate for any other purpose than those named in the Revenue law and the act of 1873.

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MONEY AND MATRIMONY.

The Mystery that Envelopes the Financial Prospects of the Newly-Wedded.

Some Unpleasant Post-Nuptial Discoveries.

O God of Hosts! Much better now than ever, and as far as I am concerned.

For Whose Benefit Fashion-Literature Is Devised.

It is well known that the old-time sayings, "Love is a cottage" "all for love and the world lost," etc., quoted only in ridicule. The sentiments which they indicated have passed away like quill-pens, hand-knit hose, home-made sausages, patchwork quilts, and the like old-fashioned comforts. The modern belief is, that money may be a good thing without matrimony, but matrimony is decidedly a bad thing without money. Holding this creed it follows of necessity, that matrimonial expenses are to be reckoned a financial loss. In France, where marriages are arranged by the old folks, and a large contract is part of the outfit, the money-question is treated as hereditarily as in other transactions where Cupid plays so part; but, in these United States, we cling to the old tradition that dollars and cents have no connection with affairs of the heart; and a tantalizing mystery is allowed to envelop the financial prospects of the newly-wedded. The American can scarcely be found who is willing to acknowledge that he is marrying for money. He would become the target for masculine scorn and feminine contempt. So baneful must he be to all but his wife that she would be ashamed to let him be seen in public. The husband, however, is not to be wondered at if, after all this understanding, comes

"CHARLES IN CONTACT."

It is by no means in real life that it is presented to us now. The husband does not come and demand his wife's hand with a clinched hand, and sink into a chair, crying, "Wife, we are ruined." And the children don't gather around him and beseech him to take them with him to a distant land. No, indeed. Some mutual friend breaks the secret from the disgraced husband to the unsuspecting wife. Then the wife, stunned by the sudden explanation, considers it to be the next best thing to a divorce, and gives up her husband before he has even seen his face. Married life begins down into having dinner ready, and not letting the children wake Papa up when he returns after dinner. And so it goes to be wondered at if, after all this understanding, comes

"WINTER-HAUL."

THE OLD CLOCK IN THE CORNER.

And the old clock in the corner, with its hands brown and bare, The snowflakes sweep through the frosty sky,

With the wintry wind they sport and play, I used to sit here and read my book, until at last

The time-clock tick in the corner stands, With faded dial and rusted hands,

And the dial is the dial of the old days past, And the hands are brown and bare,

And the dial is the dial of the old days past,

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